

**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 5**

DATE: March 30, 2007

SUBJECT: Reports of Significant Developments and Activities
Ending on March 23, 2007

FROM: Richard C. Karl, Director
Superfund Division

TO: Mary A. Gade
Regional Administrator

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Deputy Regional Administrator

The activities listed below are organized by site-specific activities and training/conferences:

SITE-SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES

Emergency Response, Train Derailment, Alsip, Illinois

On March 16, 2007, United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) On-Scene Coordinators (OSCs) Steve Faryan and Theresa Holz responded to a train derailment in Alsip, Illinois. Five CSX tank cars containing food-grade phosphoric acid derailed at approximately 3:45 a.m., creating the potential for a release. The Alsip Fire Department was immediately on scene, as well as CSX and their corresponding contractors. Other State and local officials that responded were the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (Illinois EPA), Alsip Police Department, Alsip Public Works, Federal Rail Administration, and Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRDGC). OSC Mike Beslow assisted in the response by preparing a National Atmospheric Release Advisory Center (NARAC) model of the possible plume, if a release should occur. The Superfund Technical Assistance and Response Team (START) was also activated to provide air monitoring, if needed. Prior to movement of any derailed cars, evacuations of local businesses and two schools in the area were made. CSX contractors lifted and re-railed the cars without releasing any phosphoric acid. At approximately

9:30 p.m. all cars had been railed on the tracks and were prepared for movement to a transfer station.

Contacts: Steve Faryan (312-353-9351)
Theresa Holz (312-886-6845)

Emergency Response, Oil Spill, Indianapolis, Indiana

On March 20, 2007, U.S. EPA was contacted by the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) asking for assistance with a spill. Heavy rainfall in the Indianapolis, Indiana, area had caused the oil in the sewers to overflow onto the surface impacting Crooked Creek and approximately 20 residential properties. The problem had escalated and the potentially responsible party (PRP) was showing some signs of resistance to continuing to address the spill.

On March 21, On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) Walter Nied responded to assist IDEM. One basement had been impacted with oily water as well as several yards and parts of a golf course. Crooked Creek and White River had no or limited impact. The PRP had hired a contractor to assist with the cleanup. On March 22, the PRP committed to completely cleanup the spill and impacted areas with IDEM oversight. IDEM is satisfied with current actions.

Contact: Walter Nied (312-886-4466)

Explanation of Significant Differences (Luminous Processes, Inc. Adjacent Area), Ottawa Radiation Areas Superfund Site, Ottawa, Illinois

On March 21, 2007, the Explanation of Significant Differences for the Ottawa Radiation Areas Superfund site, Luminous Processes, Inc. Adjacent Area, Ottawa, Illinois, was signed. U.S. EPA has determined that the Luminous Processes, Inc. (LPI) Adjacent Area meets the criteria of the Presumptive Remedy "Plug-in" Record of Decision for the Ottawa Radiation Areas that was issued on September 24, 2003. The public comment period ran from February 12 to March 5, 2007. Two Availability Sessions were held.

The LPI Adjacent Area is approximately 0.4 acres and within the City limits of Ottawa, LaSalle County, Illinois. The site is currently in use as a gravel parking lot for the City of Ottawa. The remedy is estimated to cost \$720,000 and 397 cubic yards of

radium-contaminated soil will be excavated. The LPI Adjacent Area is the last known site in Ottawa.

Contact: Denise Boone (312-886-6217)

Five Year Review Report Completed, Seymour Recycling Superfund Site, Seymour, Indiana

On March 20, 2007, a Five Year Review Report was completed and signed for the Seymour Recycling Superfund site in Seymour, Indiana. The report was based on a site inspection in September 2006 that found the site to be secure and in proper condition for operation and maintenance. The report noted future issues that need to be addressed. The final signed report confirms that the Seymour site remains protective of both human health and the environment.

The Seymour Recycling Superfund site is currently in operation & maintenance under the 1987 Final Record of Decision, 1988 Consent Decree, and a 2002 Explanation of Significant Difference (ESD). The remedy includes a hazardous waste cap, and a vapor extraction system which is cycled periodically. The groundwater pump & treatment system was shut off in 2001 under the ESD. There is a contingency in the Seymour ESD to restart the pump & treatment system if the groundwater plume does not continue to contract or remain stable.

Contact: Jeff Gore (312-886-6552)

TRAINING/CONFERENCES

Exercise, Incident Management Team, Des Plaines, Illinois

On March 20 and 21, 2007, approximately 50 members of the Region 5 Incident Management Team (IMT) participated in a day-and-a-half training and exercise at the Des Plaines emergency operations center. The goal of the exercise was to practice the incident command system planning process and to identify areas where more preparation is needed. Although the IMT is coordinated by Superfund's emergency response program, members are drawn from across the Region.

This was the first of a series of exercises that will culminate with the SONS 07 (Spills of National Significance 2007) exercise

in June. Next up for the IMT will be an exercise with the Regional Incident Coordination Team (RICT) in April.

Contact: Sam Borries (312-353-8360)

Bimonthly Meeting, Northern Michigan Waterways Hazardous Material Spill Planning Committee, Indian River, Michigan

On March 15, 2007, the March meeting of the Northern Michigan Waterways Hazardous Material Spill Planning Committee, known to all as the No Spills group, occurred. Chris Christenson (Oil Section) and Ralph Dollhopf (Emergency Response Section 1) both serve on the Executive Committee of the organization. The organization is the designated U.S. EPA sub-area planning entity for several of the counties in the northern Lower Peninsula and the eastern Upper Peninsula of Michigan. Much of the discussion centered on the success of the annual conference held in January and initial planning discussions for the effort next year. A conference planning committee was formed for next year. The group also received notice from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) that its application for tax exempt status under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code was granted, retroactive to August 8, 2006, and running until December 31, 2010. Following discussion of the matter, the chair strongly concurred with the group that he would set and conduct a meeting with the deputy commander of the U.S. Coast Guard Sector Sault Ste. Marie to discuss area planning and preparedness, and the integration of the enhanced efforts of both organizations in this activity.

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